



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NASHVILLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1070
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202-1070

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

February 28, 2003

Project Planning Branch

To All Interested Parties:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the impacts of open channel maintenance dredging in the Tennessee River in Fort Loudoun Lake adjacent to Looney Island between Tennessee River Miles 642.5 and 643.5 and adjacent to Post Oak Island between Tennessee River Miles 642.5 and 643.5. The EA will provide the basis for a decision whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). By way of this letter, we are soliciting public and agency comments concerning environmental issues that should be addressed in the course of the NEPA process.

The Tennessee River's Looney Island area is subjected to constant bed load movement resulting in recurring shoaling problems in the navigation channel and forming a hazard to watercraft. The area has been dredged repeatedly, most recently in 1998.

We are soliciting public and agency comments concerning environmental issues that should be addressed in the course of the NEPA process. We encourage comments not only about the immediate project area, but also of plans or proposals for any other development that may impact or influence the project or the surrounding watershed. This letter also serves to initiate the public involvement requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. As both the dredging and disposal sites have been repeatedly affected by previous operations, the Corps does not anticipate affecting any cultural or historic properties. Please submit any comments concerning environmental and cultural resource issues no later than March 30, 2003, to ensure evaluation and inclusion in the NEPA Document.

Your participation is appreciated. If you have any questions concerning this process, please feel free to contact Mr. Wayne Easterling at (615) 737-7847.

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Eli, P.E.
Chief, Project Planning Branch